GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:887
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2001
ILLEGAL IMPORT OF EDIBLE OIL
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have received representations from the edible oil trade that specific duties be levied rather than ad valorem duties to check under-invoicing, etc;

(b) if so, the full details in this regard;

(c) whether huge quantities of edible oil imports get into the country without payment of customs duty;

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to plug such leakages; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard to control illegal entry of edible oil?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N.RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, sir. The Government have received a representation from the Vanaspati Manufacturers` Association of India suggesting a switch over from ad valorem to specific duties on edible oils.

(c) During the year 2000-01, the customs formations detected five cases of illegal imports of edible oils and seized 7129 kgs of edible oils having a value of Rs.2.59 lakh.

(d) and (e): All the field formations of the Customs Department including the Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence are vigilant and alert to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods including edible oils.